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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, listed in sections I to III below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 1991.

I. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 1/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

4. At the same session, by resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

5. By resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

6. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 2/ has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Committee.

7. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 relating to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the operative paragraphs of which read as follows:

"1. Declares the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism".

9. At its forty-fifth session, in connection with the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990, paragraphs 22 and 23 of which read as follows:

"22. Requests the Special Committee to continue to examine the full compliance of all States with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on the question of decolonization, to seek the most suitable ways for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories to which it applies and to propose to the General Assembly specific measures for the complete implementation of the Declaration in the remaining colonial Territories;

"23. Invites all States to cooperate fully with the Special Committee in the complete fulfilment of its mandate."

10. At the same session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 3/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/34 of 20 November 1990 in which it, inter alia:

"5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1990, including the programme of work envisaged for 1991; 4/

"...

"12. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories that have not yet attained independence and, in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

"(b) To make concrete suggestions which could assist the Security Council in considering appropriate measures under the Charter with regard to developments in colonial Territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security;

"(c) To continue to examine the compliance of Member States with resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(d) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of visiting missions to those Territories whenever the Special Committee deems it appropriate, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist world-wide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"13. Calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants and urges, in particular, those administering Powers which do not participate in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1991 session;".

11. At the same session, the General Assembly adopted decision 45/410 of 20 November 1990 relating to the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The text of the decision reads as follows:

"The General Assembly took note of the interim reports of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism 5/ and recommended that the Secretary-General request those States and organizations of the United Nations system which had not yet done so to reply not later than 1 April 1991 to his letter of 31 January 1989, and subsequent communications, and that he invite them once again to submit suggestions so that they might be taken into account in the final report to be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, which report would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism."

12. Prior to the adoption of resolutions 45/34, by which the General Assembly approved the proposals contained in the report of the Special Committee regarding the Committee's proposed programme of work for 1991; and 45/35 of 20 November 1990 concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, the Assembly had before it the report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the draft resolutions. 6/ Consideration of this matter by the Fifth Committee was based on the related statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/44/35) and the oral statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/C.5/44/SR.31).

13. During its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly had before it communications dated 12 and 15 November 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/45/723 and A/45/724, respectively), stating that Papua New Guinea wished to join the Special Committee.

14. At its 55th plenary meeting, on 4 December 1990, the General Assembly, on the nomination of its President, agreed to the appointment of Papua New Guinea to the membership of the Special Committee.

15. As of 1 January 1991, the Special Committee was composed of the following 25 members: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. The membership of 1990 of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee is given in the annex to the present document.

II. RESOLUTIONS, CONSENSUSES AND DECISIONS CONCERNING SPECIFIC ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1990

16. As mentioned in section I above, the General Assembly, by paragraph 12 of its resolution 45/34, requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories that had not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism. The Assembly also adopted 19 other resolutions, 2 consensuses and 5 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Committee in 1990. The relevant measures taken are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Committee's programme of work for 1991.

A. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	45/21	20 November 1990
New Caledonia	45/22	20 November 1990
Anguilla	45/23	20 November 1990
Bermuda	45/24	20 November 1990
British Virgin Islands	45/25	20 November 1990
Cayman Islands	45/26	20 November 1990
Montserrat	45/27	20 November 1990
Turks and Caicos Islands	45/28	20 November 1990
Tokelau	45/29	20 November 1990
American Samoa	45/30	20 November 1990
United States Virgin Islands	45/31	20 November 1990
Guam	45/32	20 November 1990

2. Consensuses

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	45/407	20 November 1990
Pitcairn	45/408	20 November 1990

3. Decisions

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
East Timor	45/402	21 September 1990
St. Helena	45/409	20 November 1990
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	45/424	12 December 1990

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	45/16	20 November 1990
Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa	45/17	20 November 1990
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	45/18	20 November 1990
United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa	45/19	20 November 1990
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	45/20	20 November 1990
Thirtieth Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	45/33	20 November 1990
Dissemination of information on decolonization	45/35	20 November 1990

C. Decisions concerning other questions

Question	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	45/406	20 November 1990
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism	45/410	20 November 1990

III. OTHER RESOLUTIONS RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

17. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below:

Item	Resolution No. and date of adoption	Points relevant to programme of work
Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference	45/9 25 October 1990	paragraph 4
Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity	45/13 7 November 1990	-
Implementation of the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace	45/14 7 November 1990	-
Rationalization of existing United Nations procedures	45/45 28 November 1990	-
Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa	45/56 A and B 4 December 1990	-
Questions relating to information	45/76 A and B 11 December 1990	-
Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security	45/80 12 December 1990	paragraph 4
Co-operation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States	45/82 13 December 1990	paragraph 5
Adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist régime of South Africa	45/84 14 December 1990	-
World social situation	45/87 14 December 1990	-
Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	45/88 14 December 1990	-

Item	Resolution No. and date of adoption	Points relevant to programme of work
Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	45/89 14 December 1990	-
Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid	45/90 14 December 1990	-
Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons	45/91 14 December 1990	paragraph 2
Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms	45/96 14 December 1990	-
Right to development	45/97 14 December 1990	-
Policies and programmes involving youth	45/103 14 December 1990	paragraphs 1, 8
Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	45/105 14 December 1990	-
Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women	45/129 14 December 1990	-
Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights	45/130 14 December 1990	-
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	45/131 14 December 1990	-
Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	45/132 14 December 1990	-

Item	Resolution No. and date of adoption	Points relevant to programme of work
International Covenants on Human Rights	45/135 14 December 1990	-
International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa	45/137 14 December 1990	-
Torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in South Africa	45/144 14 December 1990	-
Implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances	45/148 18 December 1990	-
International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking	45/149 18 December 1990	-
Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections	45/150 18 December 1990	-
Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes	45/151 18 December 1990	-
World Conference on Human Rights	45/155 18 December 1990	-
Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa	45/171 18 December 1990	-
Rationalization of the work of the Third Committee	45/175 18 December 1990	-
Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa	45/176 A to H 19 December 1990	-
Economic stabilization programmes in developing countries	45/194 21 December 1990	paragraph 7
Report of the South Commission	45/195 21 December 1990	paragraph 2
Specific measures in favour of land developing countries	45/202 21 December 1990	-

Item	Resolution No. and date of adoption	Points relevant to programme of work
Special assistance to the front-line States	45/224 21 December 1990	-
Current financial crisis and financial emergency of the United Nations	45/236 A and B 21 December 1990	-
Pattern of Conferences	45/238 A and B 21 December 1990	-
Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991	45/248 A and B 21 December 1990	-
Programme planning	45/253 21 December 1990	-
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations	45/254 A to C 21 December 1990	-
Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993	45/255 21 December 1990	-

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

2/ See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to forty-fifth sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/43/23); ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/44/23); and Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23).

3/ A/45/23 (Parts I-V, VI and Corr.1, VII-VIII); to be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23).

4/ A/45/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J; to be issued subsequently as part of Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23).

5/ A/44/800 and A/45/624.

6/ A/45/686.

Annex

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1990

Working Group

Committee officers:

Ethiopia (Chairman)
Cuba (Vice-Chairman)
Norway (Vice-Chairman)
Czechoslovakia (Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance)
Syrian Arab Republic (Rapporteur)

Officers of the Subcommittee on Small Territories:

Tunisia (Chairman)
Norway (Rapporteur)

Other members:

Congo
Fiji
Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance

Afghanistan
Bulgaria
Congo
Cuba
Czechoslovakia (Chairman)
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania

Subcommittee on Small Territories

Afghanistan
Bulgaria
Chile
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
Ethiopia
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Norway (Rapporteur)
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia (Chairman)
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yugoslavia